Spade Connector for Attaching an Intermodal Container to a Vehicle

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- An assembly for lifting and transporting a container,
  said assembly comprising a male part and a female part,
  - said female part further comprising a groove and a sleeve rigidly attached to a support beam attached to said container,

said male part further comprising

- a ledge, adapted to be received in said groove of said female part, capable of bearing the weight of said container,
- a spade, adapted to be received within said sleeve of said female part, connected to said ledge by a pivot, said spade capable of restraining said ledge within said groove of said female part.
- The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said pivot is conic.
- 3. The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said spade of said male part further comprises a toggle adapted to be received in said groove of said female part, capable of pivoting said spade into alignment with said sleeve of said female part to be received in said sleeve when said toggle is received in said groove.

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The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 3, wherein said 4. toggle further comprises a piston chamber capable of pivoting said spade out of alignment with said sleeve when said spade is received within said sleeve, further restraining said ledge of said male part within said groove.

The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 4, wherein said 5. piston chamber has increased facility to pivot said spade out of alignment with said sleeve to prevent said spade from being received within said sleeve.

The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said 6. spade has a friction enhancing surface.

The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said 7. sleeve has a friction enhancing surface.

- The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said 8. spade further comprises a switch capable of activating an indicator when said spade is received within said sleeve.
- The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, wherein said 9. ledge further comprises a beveled edge to facilitate alignment of said male part and said female part.
- The assembly for lifting and transporting a container of claim 1, further 10. comprising a retractable safety pin adapted to be received within a hole in said container capable of restricting movement of said spade relative to said sleeve.

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